EXCISE

E
B/IEC

Department of State

105

TELEC

CONFIDENTIAL

AN: D770171-0413

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03563 140610Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /100 W
----------1415297 126698 /44
R 1318667 MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0477
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3563

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR O'GRADY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PPINS ELAB ICFTU ILO AR
SUBJECT: EX-MARITIME UNION LEADER REPORTEDLY FLEES ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 265 NOTAL, (B) BUENOS AIRES 2868 NOTAL

1. WE HAVE A REPORT FROM A USUALLY RELIABLE EMBASSY CONTACT THAT LIVIO ROBERTO MASSAGATTI, WHO WAS HEAD OF THE MARITIME WORKERS UNION (SOMU) AND MARITIME WORKERS FEDERATION (FAMAR) UNTIL BOTH WERE INTERVENED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES LAST YEAR, DISAPPEARED AND POSSIBLY MAY HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING AN INTERVIEW HE HAD WITH JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MASSERA, REPORTEDLY LAST WEEK. DURING THE PERVIOUS PERONIST REGIME MASSAGATTI WAS APPOINTED (WORKER) HEAD OF ELMA, THE STATE SHIPPING LINES. SINCE THE UNION'S INTERVENTION LAST YEAR (REFTEL A), MASSAGATTI HAD RETURNED TO HIS ORIGINAL TRADE, WORKING AS A
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03563 140610Z

WAITER ON BOARD THE PACKET BOAT THAT COMMUTES EVENINGS

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DJ Grubbs DATE 4/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

EXCISE

BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND COLONIA, URUGUAY.

B1, EC

2.(THE EX-UNION LEADER REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA TO TURN OVER TO HIM EVIDENCE THE EX-UNION HEAD HAD AMASSED CONCERNING CORRUPTION AMONG HIGH-RANKING ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICERS. REPORTEDLY, TWO HOURS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH MASSERA, DURING WHICH HE LEFT A MEMORANDUM DOCUMENTING HIS EVIDENCE, MASSAGATTI'S HOME WAS RAIDED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS SEARCHING FOR HIM. THE ONLY PERSON AT HOME AT THE TIME, MASSAGATTI'S 15-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, WAS CARRIED OFF. SHE REPORTEDLY WAS ROUGHED UP SOMEWHAT BUT HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED. MASSAGATTI HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY OUR CONTACT SINCE THEN AND PRESUMABLY HAS FLED, OR ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, REPORTEDLY HEADED FOR PARAGUAY.

2. COMMENT: MASSAGATTI'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS NOT YET BEEN REPORTED IN THE MEDIA TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. THIS INCIDENT TAKES PLACE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF GROWING TENSIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM HARDLINING ANTI-LANUSSE MILITARY AND POLICE ELEMENTS TO INVESTIGATE CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES DURING THE PREVIOUS LANUSSE MILITARY AND PERONIST GOVERNMENTS. EXPRESIDENT LANUSSE AND HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING RETIRED ADMIRAL GNAVI, RECENTLY WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RENEWED INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALUAR ALUMINUM CONTRACT. MASSAGATTI HAS BEEN DISTRAUGHT SINCE THE INTERVENTION OF HIS UNION LAST YEAR, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS ORDERED FOR A COMBINATION OF REASONS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF MISHANDLING OF UNION FUNDS. SCHU AND FANAP ARE AFFILIATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (ITF). SOME WEEKS AGO A COLLEAGUE OF MASSAGATTI HAD REQUESTED ITF'S MEDARDO GOMERO'S ASSISTANCE IN GETTING MASSAGATTI OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A BREATHER (REFTEL B), BUT WE ARE UNAWARE WHETHER GOMERO

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.
CHAPLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED